XXC of the Income-tax Act containing the scheme of pre-emptive purchase of immovable properties introduced by the Finance Act 1986. Under this scheme, the Appropriate Authority (constituted under the Income-tax Act) has been empowered to pass purchase orders of immovable properties in certain cases of transter. The Scheme was initially introduced in 4 metropolitan cities w.e.f. 1.10.1986 but has been extended to 26 cities from time to time. It applise to transferor of immovable properties having stated consideration exceeding Rs. 10 lakhs. For any transfer of such immovable property, an agreement for transfer is to be first entered between the transferor and the transferee at least 3 months before the intended date of transfer. This agreement is to be reduced to writing in the form of a statement and furnished to the Appropriate Authority. The Appropriate Authority scrutinises the transaction and in cases where it forms an opinion that the apparent consideration has been under-stated, it can pass an order for the purchases by the Central Government of such immovable property at an amount equal to the amount of apparent consideration. This order is to be passed within a period of 3 months from the end of the month in which the statement is filed with the appropriate Authority. The order is passed after giving a reasonable opportunity of being heard to the transferor, the persons in the occupation of the immovable property if the transferor is not in occupation of the property, the transferee and to every other person whom the Appropriate Authority knows to be interested in property. On passing of such order, the immovable property vests with the Central Government in terms of the agreement for transfer. The Central Government makes payment of the apparent consideration within a period of one month from the end of the month in which the property gets vested with the Central Government. Non-payment of such apparent consideration within the prescribed time results into abrogation of the purchase order. In cases where no purchase order is passed, the Appropriate Authority is reuired to issue a No objection certificate. Without production of a No objection certificate, no registering officer can register any document purporting to transfer any immovable property covered by the scheme. Non-compliance with the provisions of the scheme has been made punishable with rigorous imprisonment extending upto 2 years and also with fine. The scheme does not apply to agreements for transfer of a property made by a person to his relative on account of natural love and affection.

(d) A reference may kindly be made to the Budget documents for the financial year 1994-95.

Companies in Litigation with SCICI

833. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of firms or companies with whom SCICI has any on going litigations;

(b) has any effort been made to settle all such litigations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) (a) to (c) SCICI Limited has reported that the names of companies with whom it has ongoing litigation (except as designated person of Government of India) are as follows:

1. Bombay Offshore Supplies and Services Limited.
2. Surya Seafoods Limited.
3. Meenam Fisheries Pvt. Limited.
4. Gautham Construction and Fisheries Limited.

SCICI Limited has further reported that in respect of case at S.No. 1 above, the consent terms have been filed and a compromise is being worked out. The

remaining cases have only recently been filed and SCICI is engaged in dialogues with the companies concerned for an amicable settlement.

Abolition of Cess on Tea

834. SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL:
SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how much of the tea cess was spent for research development and export promotion during the last three years;

(b) what has been the actual collection of cess during that period; and

(c) whether abolition of cess on tea is being considered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Amount of Cess on tea spent for Research, Development and Export Promotion during the last 3 years has been as given below:—

(i) Research Grants for the year —

1990-91	145.78 lakhs
1991-92	107.56 lakhs
1992-93	292-43 lakhs

(ii) Development Grants for the year —

1990-91	46.87 lakhs
1991-92	36.68 lakhs
1992-93	70.25 lakhs

(iii) Foreign Promotion including administration charges for the year —

1990-91	588.50 lakhs
1991-92	665.89 lakhs
1992-93	504.15 lakhs

(b) Collection of Cess on Tea during the last three years is as given below:—

1990-91	12.07 crores
1991-92	10.88 crores
1992-93 (R.B.E.)	11.10 crores

(c) At present, no proposal to abolish Cess on tea is under consideration.

Smuggling of Metals and Electronics Goods

835. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of the liberalised policy announced by Government for import of precious metals at lesser import duty, smuggling of metals and electronic goods is going on in the country;

(b) what is the total quantity of goods seized by Customs authorities at different airports in the country; and

(c) what possible measures Government are taking to curb smuggling of goods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Liberalised import policy including reduced import duty appears to have curtailed large scale smuggling of precious metals. However, smuggling of precious metals and electronics items such as printed circuit boards, disc drives etc. is still being noticed on a smaller scale.

(b) The total quantity of goods seized by Customs authorities at different airports in the country during last three financial years is as follows:

Financial Year	Value of goods seized (Rs. in lakks)
1991-92	19889
1992-93	10558
1993-94 (Upto 31st Jan. 94)	7270 (Prov.)

(c) Anti-smuggling activities have been further intensified at all the international airports. Measures taken to curb smuggling include greater surveillance over sensitive areas at these airports, intensified intelligence collection, screening of baggage of passengers arriving on sensitive flights with the help of sophisticated equipments such as baggage X-ray machines and metal detectors and close coordination among all agencies concerned in the detection and prevention of smuggling.